

Wilton, Feb. 1. / 05. <sup>ans'd.</sup>

My dear Miss Clarke,

I thank you very much  
for your kindness in writing  
to me, and esteem it a  
privilege to exchange thoughts  
with you. I am sure we  
have very much in common  
in our faith and in our  
estimate of its evidences.

I feel the differences and the  
difficulties in the literal  
acceptance of the miraculous  
events recorded in the Gospels,  
and the necessity for allowing  
much to possible inaccuracies

decide about, as what he meant by  
doing them. And that I think, is always  
plain. I do not think he "crossed" the  
pythia; he only declared a fact about it  
that it never would bear fruit; and by  
the law of life-conditions that which  
must happen to absolute spiritual barrenness  
happened at once before their eyes, and the  
wonders show of leaves withered. I see  
no reason for refusing the story which  
tells so good an interior truth. I think  
our Lord touched the central springs of  
things and dealt with them, while we

or misunderstandings on the  
part of their hearers. The  
only satisfying assurance to  
me is that it is not in their  
externals that we are to look  
for that which they were  
meant to reveal. Every act  
of Christ was a divine parable.  
He used things as words, and  
they were pliable to his power  
as language is to that of a  
master mind. He often had to  
translate for his disciples, and  
we have to translate by the keys  
which he has given us. It is  
not so much the mere deeds  
we have to care for and



only deal with outside, and  
of them even understand, so  
very little. I like to think that  
the thousands were all fed,  
bodily and spiritually, though  
they "had voices of them come  
from far," - in both senses,  
and had nothing of them over  
for nourishment. So it does  
not trouble me a bit that  
ordinary material laws were  
skipped or suspended. The  
teaching and the comfort are  
so there, that there can be no  
essential falsehood in the  
illustration - either of happening  
or telling, - though the method  
may be beyond my present discus-  
sion. -

I will not weary you with  
more, but will hope that we  
may yet have some pleasant  
words with each other.

I know your life is a very  
busy one; but mine - as to  
outward activity - is closed;  
and if you could ever, some  
nice, quieting day, come to see  
me in my home, - / very closely  
accessible from train and  
trolley, - only a little way up  
Milton Hill, / I should be  
both happy and grateful.

Some of my earliest religious

impressions were received  
from your father's preaching,  
when my father used to take  
me sometimes on Sunday  
afternoons to hear him at  
the old "Amory Hall."  
In the morning, we attended  
Sunday School and service  
at the West Church. I  
have always been thankful  
for my training there, which  
has given me a wide interper-  
tation of whatever I have  
since recognized as truth.  
Yours most cordially,  
Adeline J. Whitney. —